Price of Anti-Cancer drug

2054. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Emergency Medical Relief has been granted to M/s. Novartis for its anti-cancer product GLIVEC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. NATCO Pharma is already marketing the same product at 1/10th the price of Novartis;

(c) whether it is also a fact that M/s. NATCO have challenged the grant of Emergency Medical relief; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps Government propose to maintain the price as the product is meant for cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Population growth rate

2055. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala and Tamil Nadu have successfully brought down population growth rate;

(b) if so, the measure taken by these States; and

(c) the new thrust proposed for population control?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Norms for financial assistance to all the States for implementation of various schemes under National Family Welfare Programme are the same, however, due to better political commitment, better education and better access to health infrastructure, including availability of contraception, has enabled State Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to bring down population growth.